

Baker Resident Confronts Thief in Her Room

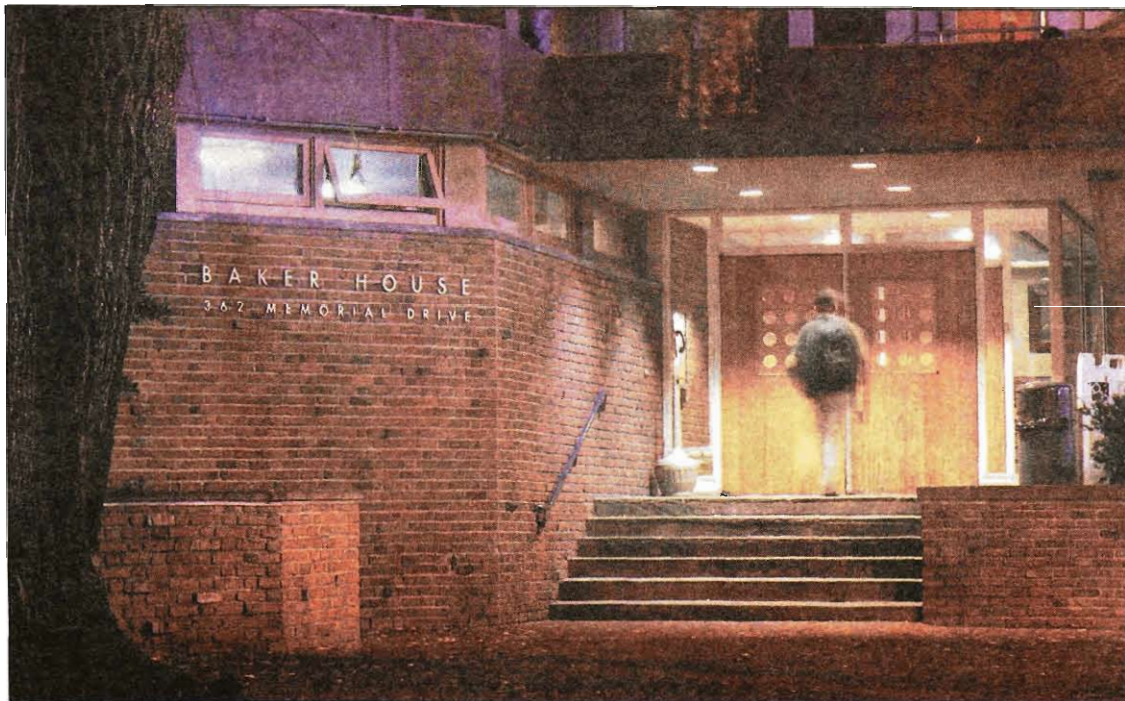
By Jenny Zhang
NEWS EDITOR

This past Sunday, Baker resident Gita Srivastava '07 walked in on a man attempting to steal from her room, and then chased him partway through the dormitory, where two other students picked up the chase. The two students were eventually able to catch up to the thief and recover Srivastava's backpack containing her laptop and digital camera. The thief escaped with fifteen dollars in cash.

Nathalie M. Pinkerton '08, one of the two students who helped pursue the thief, said that she and her roommate Tiffany L. Iaconis '08 chased the man to the tennis courts along Amherst Alley, where she managed to rip Srivastava's backpack from him.

Following the attempted theft, Baker house manager Jonathan F. Nolan sent an e-mail to Baker describing the suspect as a white male of age 18 to 25 years with light brown hair, a pimply face, and Irish symbol tattoo on the back of his neck and calf.

The e-mail advised residents not to confront the suspect if they saw him but to call the MIT Police immediately.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Two freshmen girls thwarted an attempted robbery yesterday at Baker House. The girls chased down the thief and were able to recapture the victim's backpack, containing the stolen items, as he fled.

Resident surprises thief

Srivastava said the suspect was wearing a bright orange shirt and baseball cap, and appeared to be about 5'10".

Srivastava said that she confronted the thief in her room after using the bathroom across the hall for less

than 5 minutes. She had closed her door but left it unlocked.

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Shower Night Quieter This Year

By Jeffrey Chang
STAFF REPORTER

Despite efforts by the Office for Student Life to eliminate "showering," an MIT student tradition of soaking their fully clothed peers using showers, a number of freshmen showerings occur last Thursday night, although the incidence of showering this year was lower than in previous years.

Freshmen are traditionally showered by upperclassmen the evening before the first 8.01 (Physics I) exam, which was last Thursday this year.

This was the second year of strict enforcement against the activity, said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict. He said the instructions forbidding showering were similar to last year's, and the purpose was to reiterate that showering will no longer be tolerated at MIT.

Injuries led to ban

Benedict said that the strict prohibition on showering stemmed from a complaint two years ago from the mother of a student who had been injured twice in separate showering incidents.

After learning of other injuries that had taken place over the years, Benedict said, he decided that MIT could no longer allow the showering of freshmen or any other student.

He also said that showering was "very close to being illegal under Massachusetts law for hazing."

Benedict said he had received

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MIT Sues Alum Blackjack Experts Over Web Site

By Keith J. Winstein
SENIOR EDITOR

Four former members of the MIT Blackjack Team — the subject of Ben Mezrich's 2002 best-selling book *Bringing Down the House* about MIT students who made millions in the 1990s by counting cards at Las Vegas casinos — have started two Web sites to cash in on the team's notoriety.

No longer permitted to play blackjack in Las Vegas themselves, the former students are selling training materials and private tutoring to other gamblers who hope to replicate the MIT team's

success.

One group — Beat the House LLC, started by David Irvine '95, Michael Aponte '92, and John H. Chang '85 — received MIT's wrath, or at least a federal lawsuit, when it set up a Web site using the address *mitblackjack.com* and applied for registered trademarks on "MIT Blackjack."

"This is a routine trademark cease and desist action against an infringer who has filed applications for trademark registrations that incorporate our mark," said Karin K. Rivard, the attorney at MIT's Technology Licensing Office.

The company has now switched its Web site to *blackjackinstitute.com* and says it is close to settling the lawsuit. "We're going to respect MIT's opinion and make the changes that we need to, to comply with their position," said Irvine, who says he played for the MIT club as "Mr. J" for five years.

Aponte, his business partner, won the Game Show Network's World Series of Blackjack earlier this year at the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut.

Aponte has gambled as "Mr. Kim" and "MIT Mike," and is represented by the character "Steve Fish-

er" in Mezrich's book, Irvine said.

Blackjackinstitute.com sells a "home training course" for \$200, a blackjack seminar for \$700, and "private instruction" starting at \$3,000 for two days of training. The other Web site, *blackjackscience.com*, was started by Semyon Dukach SM '93 and offers weekend seminars at \$650 for one day of instruction or \$1,100 for two.

"We have kind of gone away from the playing mode more into the training mode," Irvine said. "The whole idea of being a card counter is to go under the radar and not become notorious."

MIT Admissions Opens New Personalized Online Portal

By Tiffany Chen

The Undergraduate Admissions Office has recently revamped its Web site for students interested in applying to MIT.

The new admissions Web site, which launched in early September, offers a more colorful look in addition to new features including links to MIT student Weblogs, tips for writing application essays, and a photo gallery. In addition, using portal registration called MyMIT, prospective students can create their own accounts and individualize the Web site.

Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones, Dean of Admissions said the new Web site is designed to be "dynamic" and should reflect the "authentic nature of MIT."

She also pointed out the usefulness of the portal system in identifying prospective students and thus

expanding MIT's recruitment capability.

The new admissions web site was created in a joint project between two technology and design firms. Jones said that the Web site was made with consideration of input from student focus groups.

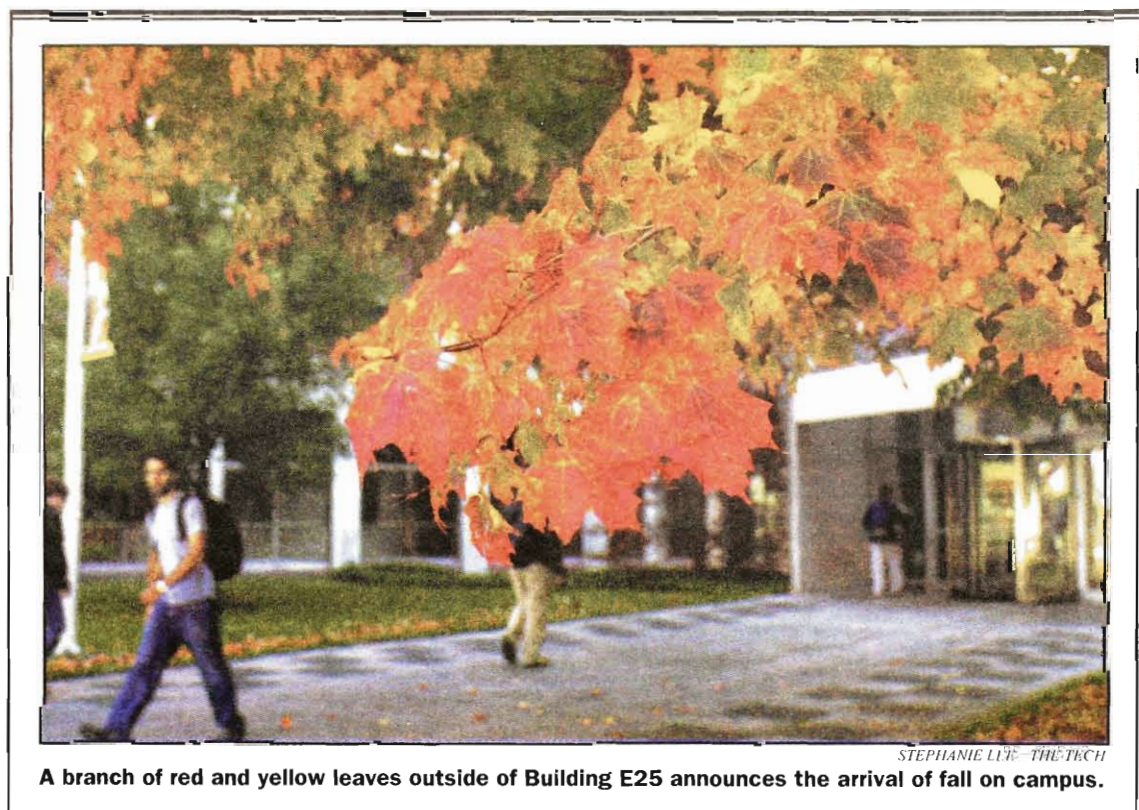
Prefrosh approve of new Web site

Prospective students have generally been pleased with the new Web site.

Madalyn Berns, a senior at Chaminade College Preparatory High School in California, said "I thought it was very informative. All the information I could ever want about admissions was at the tip of my fingertips."

She said the layout and easy navigation were pluses for the site. "Everything is covered pretty thor-

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STEPHANIE LYNE—THE TECH

A branch of red and yellow leaves outside of Building E25 announces the arrival of fall on campus.

SPORTS

Men's Cross Country takes third at PreNationals.

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Why Kerry and Bush can't both be Christian and President.

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WORLD & NATION

Space Specimens Saved From Wrecked Capsule

By Warren E. Leary
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Scientists think useful samples of all the many types of solar particles collected by the Genesis space capsule survived its crash in the Utah desert almost four weeks ago, promising researchers years of study into the origins of the solar system.

Although many of the fragile particle collectors are banged or broken, some survived the Sept. 8 crash surprisingly well, said scientists doing the painstaking work of extracting them from the crash debris.

Dr. Eileen K. Stansbery, assistant director of astromaterials research at NASA's Johnson Space Center, in Houston, said many of the principal solar collectors aboard the craft survived almost intact and promised to yield useful results for researchers. The crash means that preserving, decontaminating, and processing the samples will be harder than first envisioned, but she said that that was a small price to pay for the science that will be recovered.

Wave Of Lawsuits Expected Against Merck After Vioxx Sales Halted

By Barnaby J. Feder
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Last week's decision by Merck to halt sales of Vioxx, its popular painkiller, could lead to an onslaught of lawsuits against the company.

Hundreds and perhaps thousands of new Vioxx lawsuits are likely to be filed, lawyers said, with many of them class actions that aim to represent large groups of Vioxx users who have taken the drug for extended periods. Indeed, radio advertisements seeking plaintiffs are being broadcast and some suits were filed almost immediately after Merck's recall announcement on Thursday.

"Our lawsuit was in the works but the filing was accelerated by the recall," said Don S. Strong, a lawyer who filed a suit against Merck on Thursday in U.S. District Court in Oklahoma City.

"The recall makes our burden of proof easier," Strong said, "because it validates what our experts have been telling us for several months." The lawsuit says that Strong's client suffered ministrokes and a number of heart problems from taking Vioxx.

But some experienced product liability lawyers say a new wave of litigation may not necessarily be more distracting for Merck than the suits that are already working their way through the courts.

Cambodia Approves Tribunal For Khmer Rouge Leaders

By Seth Mydans
THE NEW YORK TIMES

After years of delays, the Cambodian Parliament ratified an agreement with the United Nations on Monday to create an international tribunal to try surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime for atrocities that took 1.7 million lives during the communists' four-year rule in the late 1970s.

The ratification was the last major hurdle for holding a trial, although no timetable was set and a number of technical and political issues lie ahead, including the raising of an estimated \$57 million from international donors.

None of the aging Khmer Rouge leaders has been brought into court to face justice for their actions between 1975 and 1979, when as many as one-fourth of the Cambodian population died from execution, starvation, overwork and disease.

The law still needs approvals by the Senate and head of state, both of which are considered formalities. The United Nations and Cambodia reached agreement in June 2003 after long and difficult negotiations. Ratification was delayed for a year as Cambodia struggled to form a government following an election.

NYT Poll Shows Bush, Kerry Dead Even Even Following Debate

By Richard W. Stevenson
and Janet Elder
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sen. John Kerry came out of his first debate with President Bush having reassured many Americans of his ability to handle an international crisis or a terrorist attack and with a generally more favorable image, but he failed to shake the perception that he panders to voters in search of support, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll.

The poll also found significant doubts about the president's policies toward Iraq, with a majority of the public saying that the United States invaded too soon and that the administration did a poor job thinking through the consequences of the war. But Bush maintained an advantage on personal characteristics like strong leadership and likability, as well as in the enthusiasm of his supporters.

Four weeks from Election Day, the presidential race is again a dead heat, with Bush having given up the gains he enjoyed for the last month following the Republican National Convention in New York City, the poll found. In both a head-to-head matchup and a three-way race

including Ralph Nader, the Republican and Democratic tickets each won the support of 47 percent of registered voters surveyed in the poll.

Last month, Bush led Kerry by 50 percent to 42 percent in a two-way race and 50-41 in a three-way race.

The results, which parallel those of several other national polls in the past few days, are likely to intensify interest in Tuesday night's debate in Cleveland between the vice presidential candidates, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina and Vice President Dick Cheney, as well as the two additional presidential debates over the next eight days.

Aides to both campaigns said Monday that the running mates' debate, which begins Tuesday at 9 p.m., was unlikely to have a major impact on the vote in November. That did not stop them, though, from trying once again to set high expectations for the other side, as each campaign pointed to the debating strengths of their opponents.

Some of the drop in Bush's numbers appeared to reflect the traditional cycle in which a candidate's standing surges after his

nominating convention and then declines somewhat. Both the Bush and the Kerry campaigns have said for months that they expected the race to be tight at the very end, no matter what the polls showed along the way.

But Kerry also scored notable gains in several areas that could be vital in a campaign being fought largely around the war in Iraq and the threat from terrorism.

Forty-one percent of registered voters said they had confidence in Kerry's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, up from 32 percent before the debate. Thirty-nine percent said they had a lot of confidence that Kerry would make the right decisions when it came to protecting against a terrorist attack, up 13 percentage points from before the debate last Thursday in Coral Gables, Fla.

But on both scores, Kerry still trailed Bush. Fifty-one percent of voters said they had confidence in Bush's ability to deal with an international crisis, unchanged from before the debate, and 52 percent said they had a lot of confidence in his ability to protect against a terrorist attack, up just slightly from 50 percent last month.

Three Car Bombs Kill Over 26, One Explodes Near Iraqi HQ

By Edward Wong
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Three powerful car bombs exploded across Iraq on Monday morning, killing at least 26 people and injuring more than 100 others in a day of carnage that demonstrated the relative ease with which insurgents are striking in the hearts of major cities.

A firefight between policemen and insurgents broke out in the middle of downtown Baghdad after one of the explosions, according to security contractors at the scene.

The first blasts rocked Baghdad as two suicide car bombs exploded within an hour of each other, one on either side of the Tigris River. The bomb in the west detonated after a

car loaded with explosives rammed into a recruiting center for Iraqi plainclothes police officers. The attack took place near a checkpoint to the fortified headquarters of the interim Iraqi government and the American Embassy, and officials at one hospital counted at least 15 dead and 82 wounded.

The second car bomb exploded north of the Baghdad Hotel, mostly occupied by foreign security contractors, after a red station wagon sped down a wide commercial street and plowed into two sport utility vehicles, witnesses said. At least six people were killed and 20 injured, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. The explosion scattered body parts and pieces of flesh across nearby blocks, and men rushing to the scene began

scraping those bits onto slabs of burnt car metal to ensure proper burials.

The third suicide car bomb exploded near a primary school in the northern city of Mosul, killing at least five people, including two children, Reuters reported, citing Iraqi police officers. The car might have exploded prematurely since there were no American soldiers or Iraqi security forces in the area, the officers said.

The attacks are the latest attempts by insurgents to keep up pressure on the interim government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. Car bombs have become the favorite — and most lethal — weapons employed by the fighters, with at least 35 having exploded in September alone, more than in any other month since the war began.

WEATHER

Crisp and Clear

By Nikki Prive
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

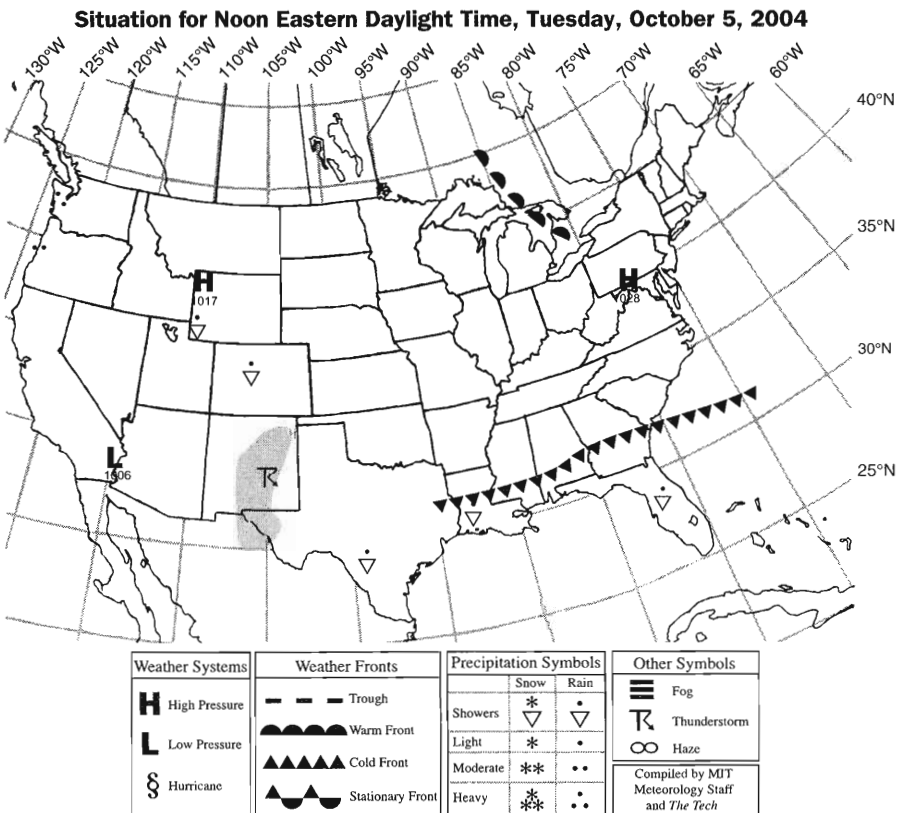
*Listen! the wind is rising,
and the air is wild with leaves,
We have had our summer evenings,
now for October eves! — Humbert Wolfe*

High pressure building over the Ohio valley will dominate the weather pattern in Boston for the remainder of the week. This high pressure will keep skies clear and temperatures brisk, with daytime highs in the 50s and 60s°F. Nights will be downright chilly, with temperatures falling near 40°F in the city, and close to freezing away from the coast. The coldest temperatures will occur today and tonight, with a gradual warming toward the end of the week.

Although we will see the coldest temperatures of the season tonight, there is little chance of approaching the record low temperature of 31°F set in Boston in 1883. The earliest recorded autumn snowfall ever in Boston occurred on Oct. 2, 1899, with a trace of snow. Oct. 10, 1979 saw the earliest measurable snowfall with 0.2 inches. The mean date for the first trace of snow is Nov. 4, just a month away.

Forecast:

Today: Sunny, high near 55°F (13°C).
Tonight: Clear, low around 40°F (4°C).
Wednesday: Mostly sunny with increasing cloudiness, high near 60°F (15°C), overnight lows in the upper 40s°F (9°C).
Thursday: Partly cloudy, high in the upper 60s°F (20°C), low near 50°F (10°C).



SpaceShipOne Wins X Prize By Reaching Space a Second Time

By John Schwartz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOJAVE, CALIF.

A private rocket ship shot into space on Monday morning and won a coveted \$10 million aviation prize for its creators.

SpaceShipOne, the sleek combination of rocket and glider designed by Burt Rutan and financed by the billionaire Paul G. Allen, reached a record altitude of 368,000 feet, or 69.7 miles, blasting past the 337,600-foot altitude record for private craft set by the same ship last week.

That feat earned Mojave Aerospace Ventures, the company formed by Rutan and Allen, the Ansari X Prize, a space competition modeled on the great contests of the early days of aviation. Members of the rocket team and organizers of prize jubilantly predicted that the flight, made on the 47th anniversary of the first Sputnik launching, marked the dawn of a new age of commercial human space flight.

“Ladies and gentleman, today

we make history,” said Peter Diamandis, the organizer of the X Prize. He called Rutan “a furry mammal among the dinosaurs of the aerospace industry.”

As members of the thousands of spectators who had gathered to watch the desert landing chanted, “Burt, Burt,” Rutan took a jab at NASA — “the other space agency” — and said he was determined to develop a commercial spacecraft that was “at least 100 as safe than anything that has every flown man to space and probably a whole lot more.” The private race for space has captured the popular imagination, with its promise of wresting the dream of human space flight away from what private space boosters call a bloated and sluggish government monopoly. Even Google, the ubiquitous search engine, adorned its logo with a cartoon showing SpaceShipOne sailing above the Earth with a flying saucer swooping in for a closer look.

SpaceShipOne’s journey into

space began shortly before 7 a.m. Monday morning, when it was carried to an altitude of nearly 50,000 feet by its mother plane, the White Knight, and released at 7:49 a.m. The spacecraft’s pilot, Brian Binnie, lit the experimental rocket motor, which burns a combination of rubber and nitrous oxide — also known as laughing gas — and ran the motor for its full planned duration of nearly 90 seconds. After its swift ride into the sky, SpaceShipOne returned to earth and touched down at 8:13 a.m. Pacific time.

The flight also far surpassed the previous flight altitude record for an air-launched craft, 354,000 feet reached by the X-15 in 1963.

Binnie, a 51-year-old former Navy pilot, stepped out, carrying an American flag he had taken in the ship. Before unfurling it, he said, “I thank God that I live in a country where this is possible.”

In two previous flights, SpaceShipOne had shown a tendency to roll at high altitudes.

Study of How We Identify Smells Wins U.S. Scientists Nobel Prize

By Lawrence K. Altman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two American scientists who solved the enigma of how people can smell 10,000 different odors and recall them later were awarded the 2004 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine on Monday.

The winners, who will share the \$1.3 million award, were Dr. Richard Axel, 58, a university professor at Columbia, and Dr. Linda B. Buck, 57, of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Until publication of their fundamental paper in 1991, the sense of smell had been “the most enigmatic of our senses,” the Nobel Assembly of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, said in recognizing the discovery that Axel and Buck made while working together at Columbia University in New York.

As the two scientists went on to work independently, the assembly said, “they have in several elegant, often parallel, studies clarified the olfactory system, from the molecular level to the organization of the cells.”

Their work provides a molecular understanding of how people who smell a lilac in childhood can recognize the fragrance later in life and

also recall associated memories.

The molecules start a process by which olfactory cells send messages to the olfactory bulb, a structure in the front of the brain that is a clearinghouse for the sense of smell. Information from the olfactory bulb is then relayed to other parts of the brain where it is combined to form a pattern in a system of smell that allows humans and animals to distinguish good from bad.

“A good wine or a sun-ripe wild strawberry activates a whole array of odorant receptors, helping us to perceive the different odorant molecules,” the assembly said.

Buck, who was born in Seattle, received degrees in psychology and microbiology from the University of Washington, and a doctorate in immunology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Yearning to learn the techniques of molecular biology, she said, she joined Axel’s laboratory, working on the side to understand “how the nervous system deals with the tremendous problem of diversity.”

After “trying a number of crazy ideas,” she said, she became so fascinated with the olfactory system that “I was totally hooked and obsessed in finding the receptors, and Axel provided the funding so I could keep

working on it.”

(BEGIN OPTIONAL TRIM.)

Axel credited Buck for coming up with “an extremely clever twist” by making three assumptions that allowed her to zero in on a group of genes that appeared to code for the odorant receptor proteins.

The scientists discovered a large gene family, comprising 1,000 different genes representing about 3 percent of all genes in the body. The olfactory genes give rise to an equivalent number of olfactory receptors located on 5 million cells in a small area in the upper part of the nostrils. The cells are highly specialized to detect molecules of a few inhaled odors.

The ability to detect and identify chemical substances in the environment offers an obvious survival benefit. But the number of odorant receptors varies among species.

For their studies, Axel and Buck used mice, which have about 1,000 odorant receptors. That is about 10 times the number in fish. Humans have about 350 such receptors.

“Smell is absolutely essential for a newborn mammalian pup to find the teats of its mother and obtain milk — without the olfaction the pup does not survive,” said the Nobel Assembly.

Italy Sends Migrants Back to Africa As Obtaining Asylum May Get Harder

By Ian Fisher
and Richard Bernstein
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROME

Hundreds of migrants from Africa in rickety boats have landed in the last few days on Lampedusa, a tiny Italian island, and the Italian government is responding quickly and contentiously, sending most of them back to Libya almost immediately, by airplane.

The crossing to Italy is a treacherous one for the thousands of poor and desperate migrants who chance no less than 70 miles of open sea on the Mediterranean each year. Last weekend, at least 17 people drowned off the coast of Tunisia trying to reach Italy, the official Tunisian news agency reported on Monday. Another 47 people, in a boatload of 70 Moroccans and five Tunisians, were reported missing.

These events underscore a serious problem that European governments have tried and, so far, failed to solve. It is what to do about the

flow of asylum seekers coming to Europe, mostly from Asia and Africa, many hundreds of whom have drowned while trying to cross the Mediterranean after being put into unseaworthy boats by human traffickers.

In recent weeks, European leaders have been sparring over a plan proposed by Germany’s interior minister, Otto Schily, to stem the flow of potential immigrants to the European Union by building holding centers in North Africa and only allowing those whose asylum applications are approved there to proceed to Europe.

“It’s an offer to help those who are in danger,” Schily said of his proposal, arguing that his plan was aimed, among other things, at helping to avoid the hazards of a sea voyage.

Schily’s idea, discussed last week at a meeting of European interior ministers in the Netherlands, has gotten a mixed reception. Italy, which has received the

largest number of African refugees, announced its support several weeks ago. Representatives of Spain and Portugal said after the meeting last week that the plan should be studied.

But officials from France, Belgium and Sweden have spoken out against the idea, objecting that the camps would be set up in countries that do not have good records in protecting refugees’ rights. Human rights groups and the United Nations have warned that it could seal Europe off from legitimate asylum seekers.

“We are not taking part in this plan,” the French interior minister, Dominique de Villepin, said after the meeting in the Netherlands, The Associated Press reported.

In making his proposal for reception centers in Africa, Schily was reviving an idea first raised last year by Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, but then quickly dropped when most European countries opposed it.

Intelligence Reformers In Senate Firm On New Director’s Power

By Carl Hulse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Senate authors of a plan to reorganize U.S. intelligence agencies on Monday defeated efforts to reduce the power of a new national intelligence director as the leadership unveiled a separate plan on how the Senate could better oversee intelligence and domestic security activities.

With lawmakers hoping to gain approval this week for a measure based on the recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission, the backers of the legislation won a series of significant votes, including their push to disclose the total amount of spending by U.S. intelligence agencies.

“The public has a right to know at least that,” said Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., and a chief author of the bill that seeks to centralize intelligence gathering.

The ability of the sponsors to hold off challenges from some of the most senior and powerful members of the Senate illustrated the momentum behind the reorganization and the influence of the leaders of the Sept. 11 commission and the relatives of those killed in the attacks, who have been lobbying against changes to the legislation.

U.S. Coordinates Efforts To Stop Counterfeit Goods

By Thomas Crampton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration unveiled an initiative on Monday intended to combat piracy of intellectual property and the sale of counterfeit goods by foreign companies.

Presented by senior officials from four agencies, the plan calls for a coordinated effort to stop the importing of designer knockoffs and counterfeit products, which account for 7 percent of all goods in the global marketplace, the commerce secretary, Donald L. Evans, said.

Although the announcement came less than a month before the election and in a week in which domestic policy issues have come to the forefront, Evans said politics had nothing to do with its timing.

“I don’t accept this notion at all that we are just now getting around to it,” Evans said. “We have had a lot of new initiatives.”

The measures announced Monday include a toll-free number aimed at making it easier for businesses to protect products from piracy as well as publication of a “name and shame” list of companies that make or trade fake designer products.

France To Reprocess U.S. Weapons-Grade U.S. Plutonium

By Elaine Sciolino
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

France is poised to take possession of 300 pounds of weapons-grade plutonium from the United States for reprocessing into fuel, an operation that its opponents contend creates a risk of nuclear terrorism.

Two vessels carrying the deadly cargo from South Carolina were expected to dock at a secure area of the French port of Cherbourg as early as Monday night.

From there, the cargo — enough to make 20 nuclear bombs — is to be taken to a secure plant at nearby La Hague. It will then be loaded onto armored, unmarked trucks and escorted by French security forces to a factory 700 miles away at the southeastern town of Cadarache, where it will be turned into fuel for nuclear reactors.

The project to turn weapons-grade plutonium into fuel was initiated by President Bill Clinton with an agreement with Russia in September 2000 to neutralize 34 tons of plutonium from American and Russian weapons dating from the Cold War.

But that was before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks heightened concerns about the risks of other terrorist attacks, even nuclear-related terrorism. Islamic militants have openly expressed their desire to secure material to make a nuclear weapon, and have even discussed stealing or attacking plutonium shipments in France. Critics say it would be far wiser merely to bury the nuclear material in the United States than to ship it long distances for reprocessing.

Mount St. Helens Spews Steam, But Many Anticipate A Bigger Blow

By Sarah Kershaw
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEATTLE

Heightening the suspense around what a quivering Mount St. Helens may do next — and delighting the thousands of tourists flocking there — the volcano on Monday morning spewed a giant column of steam and then sputtered out another picturesque puff later in the day.

But those events, coming after the mountain erupted Friday for the first time in 18 years, were still less serious than what scientists closely monitoring the mountain had anticipated, and the scientists were still saying Monday that a more significant eruption was likely.

In 1980, a massive eruption of Mount St. Helens in southwestern Washington killed 57 people, dumped tons of ash on towns across the region and set off one of the most powerful landslides in history. Scientists say that even if their predictions, which have led them to issue a “code red” alert for an imminent eruption of the mountain, come true, any further eruptions would be far less devastating than the explosion of 1980.

“There may be some explosions, and some of those explosions may be relatively large, larger than we’ve seen,” Jake Lowenstern, a volcanologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said during a news conference on Monday afternoon.

At 9:47 a.m. Monday, a steam plume soaring between 1,000 feet and 2,000 feet above the lip of the mountain’s crater — or about 10,000 feet into the air — billowed into the sky. Scientists said the likely cause was “hot material” in the mountain coming into contact with glacier water, causing a boiling beneath and a burst of steam. Ash is the greatest health concern for downwind towns, but little was emitted during the steam explosion, scientists said. But anticipated eruptions, foreshadowed by recent tremors and a steady swarm of earthquakes, could contain more ash, they said.

OPINION

Searching for Substance

In the first televised presidential debate, who seemed to have won depended a lot on who you asked, or rather, whether they listened in on radio or watched on TV. Those who heard the 1960 debate between Kennedy and Nixon on the radio said Nixon had won based on his words and tone, while those who watched on TV saw Nixon visibly weakened by the flu and sweating in an overheavy suit, and hence preferred Kennedy. Unfortunately, in 2004, over forty years later, the media is still excited by issues of style and has yet to create substantive debate on television.

Although there are many possible formats for a debate, any real debate must have an argument or a set of arguments at its center. Given that this one forbade the candidates from cross-examining each other, and hence really exposing their logic and beliefs, we were forced to depend on the quality of an outside moderator for interesting questions. Jim Lehrer, of the "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" on PBS, is one of the most respected TV journalists in America, and hence a seemingly good choice as moderator.

The questions Lehrer asked, however, can only be characterized as weak, especially in how they failed to challenge either candidate to depart from the cue-card platform running through their head. Questions like (to Senator Kerry), "Do you believe you could do a better job than President Bush in preventing another 9/11-type terrorist attack on the United States?" will never receive anything more than a superficial, and obvious, answer. What is the point of a debate unless it forces candidates

to say more than what we can read on their Web sites? The obvious consequence is that style will be called in to replace the missing substance. Moreover, hard questions are not difficult to come by: Asking Kerry whether he would allocate more money to the war in Iraq, given that we are currently forced to choose between security and reconstruction, or asking Bush how he can justify using overwhelming force to protect soldiers' lives when the war's success depends on the cooperation and goodwill of Iraqis, would each lead to more interesting answers than Kerry's "Yes, I do" believe I can do a better job.

Ultimately, in any debate with a moderator, whether we learn anything substantive about the candidates depends on the quality of the questions. The argument that somehow asking hard questions would make the debate unfair or biased is simply false, because both candidates have gaping flaws, and asking questions culled from the last three months of media coverage is no more fair or unbiased. Perhaps the greatest challenge to asking difficult questions is the two minute time limit imposed on any response. However, the key to developing any detailed line of thought is to ask follow-up questions, something Lehrer rarely did in the debate. Only by sticking with a particular issue will a moderator force the candidates to speak substance and not platitudes.

In the end, we are still waiting for the national press to step up and challenge politicians to have more than just style. It is unacceptable to be obsessed about things like choice of tie color when we are considering the election of the person who will command our army and set domestic and foreign policy.

Editorial



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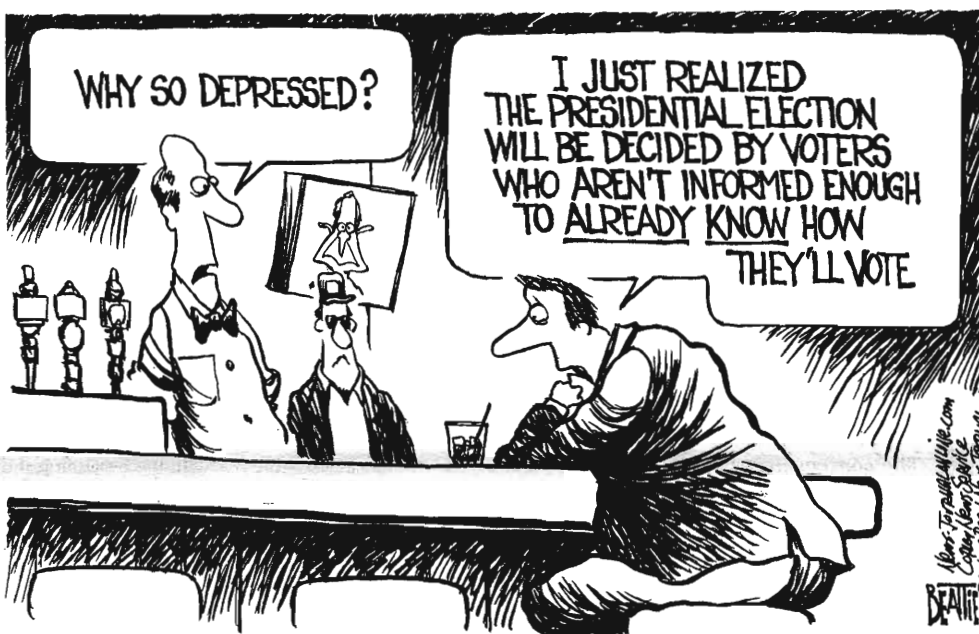
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Letters To The Editor

A Different Perspective On Teresa Kerry

I venture that Ruth Miller misrepresented both Teresa Heinz Kerry and criticisms thereof in her column ["Heinz Not the Condiment Here," Sept. 28].

Although I was not much of a fan of the Clinton family, Bill and Hillary formed a fantastic partnership that furthered both of their political careers. I didn't have a problem with a politically ambitious woman in the White House per se; her left-of-liberal advocacy turned me away.

But Teresa doesn't seem interested in political goals. Rather, she seems pointedly contemptuous of the niceties of politics. People joked about the Clintons' "we are the president," but the pickle heiress sounds like she wants to sublimate her husband's would-be office to her unelected will rather than selling a partnership presidency.

Teresa is not a partner in Kerry's quest; to quote Gore advisor Naomi Wolf, she is cuck-

olding him — by keeping the Heinz name of her late first husband, by publicly refusing to get on a helicopter with him, by spending a night on the campaign trail in a different bed, by going out of her way to express independence from John. The "idiots" remark about Kerry's health care plan was arrogant but benign; her "shove it" comment to a member of the press showed a contempt (there's that word again) for a key cog in our political system and opened the door to charges of elitism. Let's hope there's not more where that came from.

I also think Teresa having had two husbands is a fake criticism. I am steeped in editorial and op-ed reading, and I have never heard anyone hold that against the couple. They do, however, cite that Laura Bush is sleekly feminine and clearly the chief supporter of her husband's career, while Teresa appears unmade as a bed and talks like no one is listening. She is more than blunt — much like Howard Dean, she is flippant ("shove it") and conspiratorial ("I think we'll find Osama before the election"). I for one am quite concerned what her mouth could do at a state dig-

nitary dinner if someone does not sit her down and explain that no policy unit can be run with a loose cannon. Even Bill Clinton has quietly assumed an independent yet secondary role to Hillary's Senate career.

Howie Carr has derisively described the Kerrys as "a gigolo marries a gold-digger," but in all honesty I don't think anyone cares about the mechanics of their marriage. What they do care about is the fact that Teresa seems unwilling to make the sacrifice of freedom and hold the composure necessary for a politician's spouse.

I also find no evidence in your column that the First Lady is "insincere." If a reader holds anyone to the right of Joseph Lieberman in great distrust, perhaps; but a citation or anecdote of some sort would be helpful.

Mrs. Bush supposedly told her husband two decades ago to quit drinking or she would leave him. He did. Who's malleable? Who's bendable? Who's indifferent?

(By the way, George was the cheerleader in the family.)

Christopher P. Anderson '04

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Lord, Please Help Me Kill This Man

Brian Chase

I heard something interesting watching the presidential debates on Thursday, something that solidified my ideas about the two supposedly Christian candidates. Each candidate said that he would hunt down Osama bin Laden and other terrorists and kill them, as political analysts will tell you should be the president’s primary goal in the post-9/11 world. But that goal is contradictory to the morals demanded of a Christian as written in the New Testament. Jesus’s call to his disciples is to live a life of universal love for their fellow humans. You cannot live that kind of life while vowing to kill or harm another. But you also cannot expect a president to forswear the use of force and still be a good leader. The sad conclusion: a Christian cannot be President, and anyone who tries will constantly and willingly disobey God while they are in office.

Promising to kill another person contradicts the lessons of God taught through Jesus. In the gospel of Matthew, chapter 22, verse 39, Jesus states the second greatest commandment: love your neighbor as you love yourself. And who qualifies as your neighbor? All the people created in God’s image, or every human being, whether they have embraced Christianity or not. Elsewhere in the Bible, Jesus states that “we should forgive our enemies not seven times, but seventy-seven times” (Matthew 18:22); that is to say, forgive them ad infinitum. “Do not resist an

evil person,” Jesus says; should someone strike our cheek “then turn to him the other cheek also” (Matthew 5:39). Finally, “love your enemies, and pray for those that persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). What does this mean? It means that a Christian seeking to love God, and be close to him, cannot willingly harm another human being, even in self-defense.

It is vitally important to understand this point. Christ makes it clear that his God is a god of love, and that our lives should reflect the love that God shows us. This means that we should love constantly, without reservations; we should love all people regardless of gender, station, race, creed, sexual orientation, or religion. We do this because all people are God’s creations in his image, and all are precious to him. To harm our enemies in any way is to harm God and cause him pain, to turn away from him and the forgiveness offered in his Son. Now, humans are not perfect. God knows this, and that is why we can always beg His forgiveness. But to knowingly, deliberately disobey God and harm or kill another, all the while telling your brothers that you love Him and believe in Him, is either ignorant or hypocritical.

This is why I was so interested to hear both John Kerry and George Bush vow to kill Osama bin Laden while also claim to be Christian. Bush, in particular, takes pride in basing some of his most important decisions on his faith. He likes to justify his actions against others as protecting us from their evil.

Affirmative Action and Human Psychology

Nicholas Baldasaro

Affirmative action was created years ago as a way to integrate the minorities of the United States into its educational and economic infrastructure, and despite its warts, affirmative action has done some of exactly what is was created to do. I find, however, that one of the most negative consequences of the institution is rarely spoken of and poorly understood, to the cause of great mischief. The consequence I speak of is the doubt that greets the talents of minorities who eventually integrate into the non-affirmative action world of employment, a doubt that can be summed up in the thought “How good are you, really?” I propose that despite its positive effects, affirmative action curses all its recipients with the negative stigma of being both untested and less skilled compared to those who did not benefit from affirmative action.

If you will allow me that affirmative action enables some natural percentage, no matter how small, of low talent individuals (whom I define as those who even were they a non-minority of average educational and economic means would still be of less than average performance at school or on the job) to achieve equal educational or job status with those who did not benefit from affirmative action, then I will show you how the abilities of all minorities are undercut in people’s minds.

Let’s start small. I taught myself how to play tennis with my friends at age 13. I was terrible. My serves were always wild, so wild that in order to play against others with better experience, I was given a handicap: I could miss three times, rather than once like everyone else. With this leg up, I could play about as well as the others.

As time went on, I got better with experience, and started to win more than half my matches. It became evident to me that I was as good a player as anyone else. As long as I had my serving handicap though, I got zero respect. If I won, even by good stroke play and not by good serves, it was because I had an advantage. No opponent would give me credit, and no friend wanted me on his team in doubles. My handicap had scared away the success it was supposed to enable. I ditched it before I was really ready to, and lost much more often, but at least when I won or lost, it was awarded to my talent, and not to my advantage from the past. It was dignity rather than none.

My childhood experiences have clear explanations. Handicaps are meant to give people time to catch up entirely to compensate for a tough beginning, bad luck, or unfair prejudice. The problem is that human nature rarely allows us the time, will, or cleverness to consider or appreciate a stranger’s life so objectively. It was not that I had a handicap that made me

When we suspect that there is even the slightest chance that an associate or colleague is unworthy, we will not trust them until they are proven.

unwanted as a teammate; it was that my true abilities were obscured. The tragedy of a handicap is that it casts doubt on results from the proving grounds. Here is why:

When we first meet a person whose skills are tied to our success (teammate, co-worker, etc.), we look for signs that they are competent. This is complex and difficult; however, if we believe they have been given no resources that we ourselves lack, then we will at least not start them at a deficit. Affirmative action breaks this symmetry. If you allowed me that affirmative action allows some percentage of low talent minorities to advance, more on the basis of being a minority than having useful talents, then all minorities become suspect in the eyes of non-minorities, as a simple matter of prudence. Each minority must now prove himself or herself time and time again to each new person, to dispel the suspicions that naturally arise against those who are not yet proven — is it the handicap or talent that has gotten them this far? This is bad for all.

No clear way exists to both provide the benefits of a system so intrinsically based on handicapping without causing all the harm of which I have spoken. Yet gutting it wholesale and abruptly might cause such bitterness as to defeat good intentions. I propose the following middle ground — allow affirmative action, diversity outreach programs, and other government mandated racial or gender related handicaps to persist where competitive stakes are lower and reduce or remove it entirely where competition is much more important, like the workplace. Suspicion of one’s talents in college is annoying; in one’s workplace, the same suspicions can ruin a career. Additionally, the removal of such programs after a finite deadline, that of education, would send a strong message to everyone — that at the end of the day, personal merit is all that can be relied upon to advance oneself. This act of turning a permanent crutch into a temporary one would do well to decrease all the suspicions, ill wills, and negative attitudes mentioned previously — both in the minds of non-recipients, and eventually, in the recipients themselves, who when they succeed, will never wonder why it happened.

Suspicion can be used judiciously, and one may remained unprejudiced even in the face of requiring others to prove themselves. Those with ability will prove so in time. But as long as social handicapping exists, every woman, African American, or Hispanic must live with the unfortunate but inevitable thoughts that dance behind the eyes of white men who last time I checked, were still in most positions of authority. These things are not for the world that I want, either for a daughter, or for my friends.

Nicholas Baldasaro is a member of the Class of 2005.

But Jesus says we cannot resist an evil person, and who is Bush to judge who is evil and good anyway? Jesus says, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged” (Matthew 7:1). When Bush and Kerry have no qualms about ordering the death of another human being, or commanding some people to kill others, they are not being Christian, because they are not loving their neighbor or their God. By promising to hunt and kill the terrorists, they are already promising that the morés of their society will hold more sway over them than God’s laws, and that is not Christian.

The contradiction between the presidency and faith runs deeper than two rich politicians. It is obvious to anyone who has studied history that you cannot run a country or survive as a nation among nations without the threat of force, from yourself or an ally. The military is as vital to our nation’s survival as the economy or democracy itself. A president who categorically refuses to use force in any situation is not a president but a sitting duck. Some people might argue that using force or declaring war does not guarantee that people will die, but that is just naive. Every major conflict is declared with the knowledge that lives will be taken, and every soldier going into major conflict knows that he may be called upon to take another’s life. Neither the soldiers nor the planners can say truthfully they thought they wouldn’t have to disobey God.

And many tools of diplomacy, such as sanctions, also contradict the absolute pacifism required by Jesus Christ: it is hardly lov-

Perfect Strangers

Ravi Gupta

The first presidential debate took place last Thursday between the perfect strangers, Bush and Kerry. Debates are necessary to advance the campaigns of candidates and to give the citizens a chance to see which candidate is smarter, wittier, and better-looking, and who can feign compassion the best. We got all that last Thursday and a little more. In the end, though, the debate simply reinforced the notion that the two candidates are big on rhetoric yet short on plans.

In the beginning it didn’t look very good for Kerry. First he showed up late on stage and then throughout the debate rarely looked at the camera, although it’s understandable that he couldn’t turn away from the embrace that is Jim Lehrer’s eyes. There were instances when Kerry the bobblehead kept nodding whenever Bush said anything as if he was agreeing, or maybe he was just rocking out to some hidden headphones. But the debate was surely Dubya’s brightest moment and the English language’s darkest day. It was almost mischievous that Kerry made such a point of nuclear proliferation; he knew Bush would fall into the “nuclear” trap. But I digress, since both candidates made some very good points. For example, both implied that they would never waver, hunting down and kill terrorists, fighting for freedom, securing the homeland, and not giving any concrete plans. There were a few differences in how they would handle North Korea. Kerry would prefer bilateral talks and Bush would prefer a six-party talk — talk is talk.

As the debate progressed you could tell that Bush was running out of slogans. So he decided to emote and emote he did. I felt bad for him — being a president is hard work, no really, it’s hard work; George needs a hug. As Bush declared, you “have to be right 100 percent of the time” (give or take a war). It’s important to stay on the same stubborn path and not listen to “these people” (our allies).

But during the middle of the debate, a huge burden was taken off my soul. Bush repeatedly declared, “I know Osama Bin Laden attacked the U.S., I know that.” Thank god! I thought I was the only one... oh, what a relief. Bush also proved his mastery of Machiavellian strategy by once again chastising Kerry for criticizing Allawi and alas, undercutting one of our very important allies! Good call, Dubya — we don’t want our allies to get pissed at us. But in the end I have to empathize with Bush. It is hard work to transform a country where you go from getting your hands cut off to getting blown up on the streets by a mortar shell. Staying on course is a nice plan, but not when the road is foggy.

Most polls indicate that Kerry won the debate. There wasn’t a clear winner and deciding the victor generally came down to one’s personal beliefs, but I’d have to agree that Kerry won. He seemed more confident, better prepared, and had a better hair stylist. He also had a few good lines like when he accused Bush of “outsourcing [the hunt for bin Laden] to Afghan warlords” or when he criticized Bush for making a “colossal error in judgment.” Now as far as plans are concerned, Kerry didn’t

ing your neighbor to deny them food or medical supplies in the hopes they get angry enough to reform their government. God calls his followers to help all the needy, not just the ones whose government we happen to like at the time.

The inevitable conclusion to all this: an effective president can never be Christian. Any candidate who claims to be both is either sadly mistaken or a blatant hypocrite. out to get the votes of a mainly Christian country without making the sacrifices that come with being a Christian.

If this life of Christian pacifism seems stupid to some, that’s because politically, it is. A Christian life guarantees you will always be taken advantage of. To be Christian is to be the meek that get walked on, the last in the race, the innocent on whom unscrupulous people feed. It is to be the humble servant and lamb among wolves. Christians sacrifice their pride and power in this world for the joy found in the next, and part of that sacrifice is the requirement to show nothing but love to your fellow human. Any job that requires otherwise, including the presidency of the United States, is not a job committed Christians can have. So if Kerry and Bush really are my brothers in Christ, I pray for them, that God will bring them to their senses and convince them to drop from the race. At least with two non-Christian candidates, threats, sanctions, bloodshed and all the other normal functions of government won’t come at the expense of religious integrity.

reveal anything groundbreaking for Iraq. He said he would call a summit of allies and that that would fix everything. I guess Kerry just plans to throw a bitchin’ party and make the world forget its troubles. But the best part of the debate was neither seen nor heard; it was knowing that Ralph Nader was standing outside the debate arena, quietly clutching the petition signatures of Republicans, all the while sporting a stiff upper lip of which any Englishman would be proud.

The two will once again spout rhetoric at each other this Friday, and here are a few words of advice to the candidates. Kerry needs to sound more warm and fuzzy. Bush is a seasoned veteran of sounding like the common man. So what if he didn’t know where Pakistan was in 2000? Neither did most of America according to some surveys. Bush is the common man with the common mind and that’s what people like. Note to Kerry — don’t sound too smart. And note to Bush — Karl Rove isn’t going to run in and tackle Kerry; say something substantial. My advice to the readers would be to do your civil duty and watch the upcoming debates, especially if you missed the last one (so you’ll know what the hell I’m talking about in the future). But if you think debates are too boring then make a (drinking) game out of it. See how many times Kerry says “Vietnam” and how many times Bush makes up a word. And go easy on the word “values” because that’s going to be thrown around like Colin Powell’s integrity.

Speaking of integrity, Dick Cheney and John Edwards will have their vice presidential debate tonight. You can paint whatever allusion you want with these two opposites — David versus Goliath comes to mind. What could be better than seeing the young take on the old; the energetic, handsome, optimistic, compassionate rural superstar Edwards will have his chance at the fat, sneering, shady, blunt, mean old Mr. Scrooge. Finally some real differences between the candidates. We’re bound to get some entertainment out of this and that’s what counts.

Debates can make or break a candidate. They made Kennedy, Reagan, and Clinton and destroyed Nixon, Carter, and Mondale (actually running against Reagan was what initially destroyed Mondale). Bush and Kerry are running neck and neck; the debates are pivotal to their success; Karl Rove smells blood. So enjoy the debates, which are everyone’s to watch and criticize. Because come election day, if you don’t live in Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, or the Midwest then your opinion doesn’t really matter.

But how could I not mention the climax of the entire debate... the fact that Teresa Heinz Kerry and Laura Bush both wore the same dress! Uh oh! At the same time, though, how fitting. The way the candidates presented themselves seemed to reek of the desperation of pointing out differences; however, there were only a few. You can see what their slogans are — Kerry wants allies, Bush is fine the way he is. But that’s not a big difference or anything striking so it’s more of the same old politics.

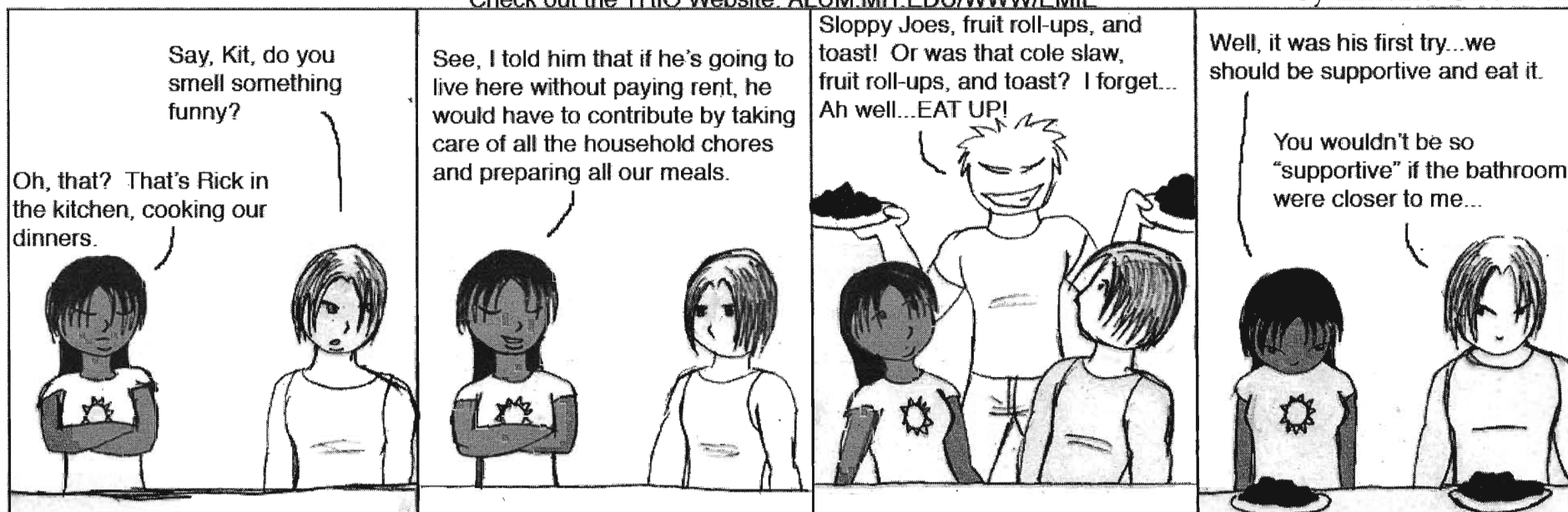
Oh wait, I “forgot Poland.”

Ravi Gupta is a member of the Class of 2008.

Trio

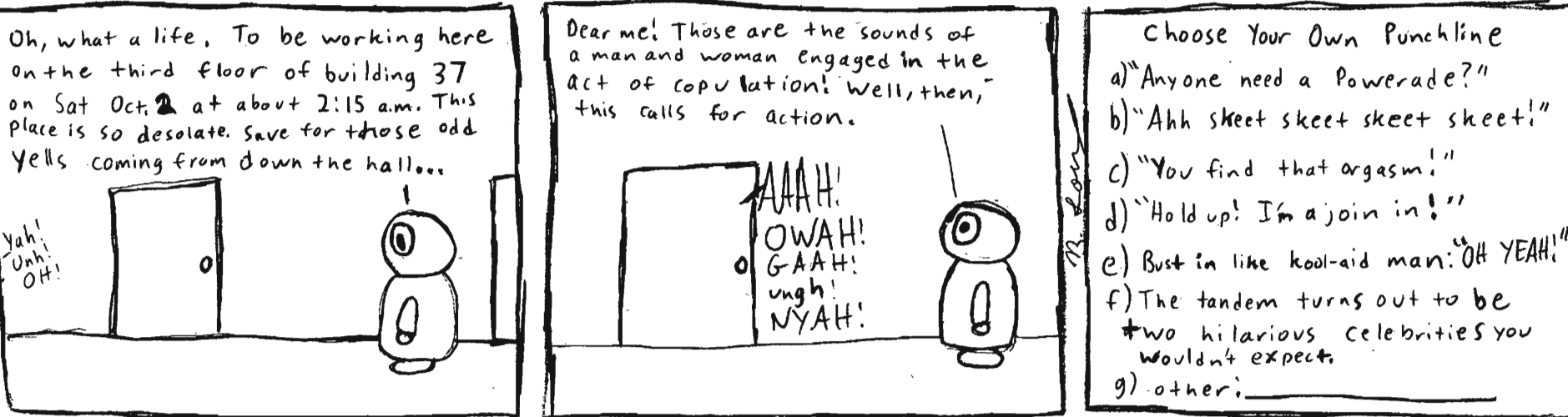
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by Emezie Okorafor



More from the true stories file

by Brian Loux



To the couple: Sex in public but secluded places, sure. But building 37? You didn't want the extra romance of the public bathrooms?

One Screw Loose

by Josie Sung



Hay Fever

by Qian Wang and Jennifer Peng



-JPeng

QED

by Brian Lewis

WHOA!

WHAT?

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THEY'RE MR. PEANUT.

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PHD

PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

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SUP, LADIES.

OH, HEY MIKE.

THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE WORSE...

COMPARED TO THAT GUY, YOU'RE A SPRING CHICKEN!

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FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

ONE-AND-THREE IN THE PRESEASON MEANS NOTHING. I REPEAT, NOTHING.

I GOT TWO WORDS FOR YOU: MARSHALL FAULK. I GOT ANOTHER TWO: ISAAC BRUCE.

WE'RE GOING ALL THE WAY, BABY! I CAN FEEL IT! I CAN FEEL IT!

MOM, THE RAM YOU INSTALLED WASN'T FROM ST. LOUIS, BY ANY CHANCE?

THE SEAHAWKS ARE OVER-RATED. TRUST ME.

ASK ME WHAT THE DATE IS.

WHAT'S THE DATE?

10-4, GOOD BUDDY.

GET IT?! GET IT?! IT'S A CB-RADIO JOKE!

NOW TELL ME WHAT THE YEAR IS.

WHY?

BECAUSE I'M CURIOUS IF YOU KNOW.

A... B... C... D... E... F...

G... H... I... J...

HEY, THERE'S NO "K."

DO YOU STILL HAVE THE RECEIPT FOR THIS ALPHABET SOUP, MOM?

I'M NOT RETURNING ANOTHER CAN, JASON.

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

ACROSS

1 Periods

5 Feudal peons

10 U.S. tennis great

14 Anderson of "WKRP..."

15 Vinegar vessel

16 Dutch artist Mondrian

17 One using crude coercion

19 Singer Brickell

20 San __, CA

21 Roof protuberances

23 Maximum limit

24 In dreamland

25 Illegal marriages

29 Poe's lady

32 Habituate

33 Titled ladies

35 Half a dance?

36 Convent crowd

DOWN

1 Maxwell or Lanchester

2 Motley horse

3 Miller and Jillian

4 Motorcycle adjuncts

5 Garlic shrimp dish

6 Cogito __ sum

7 Runner, e.g.

8 Nourishes

9 Moseyed

10 Tarzan wannabes

11 Billiards target, perhaps

12 Will VIP

13 Somme summers

18 Accuse

22 Jed or Roger

24 In general

25 Tight spots

26 Greenland Eskimo

27 Burlap containers

28 Perfect prose, perhaps

30 Lift

31 Finished

34 City near Phoenix

37 Divergence

38 Former Washington nine

40 Brain tissue

41 Ford Clinic, e.g.

43 Parts of spectacles

45 Robbins and Feldman

47 First name in gymnastics

49 Staunch

50 Hawaiian port

51 Geometric solid

52 Egress

53 M. Descartes


54 Certain NCO

57 \$ from a bank

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61						62				63			

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STEPHANIE LEE — THE TECH

A Bell Jet Ranger helicopter, flown by soldiers in the Marine Corps, offered MIT students free flights around Boston from Briggs field on Monday and Tuesday. The flights were advertising the Marine Corps Officer Program.

This space donated by The Tech

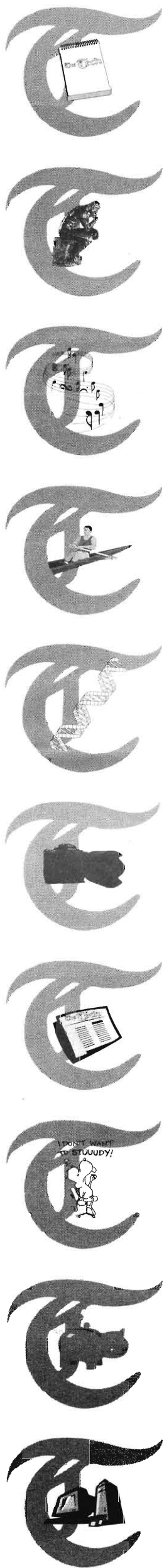
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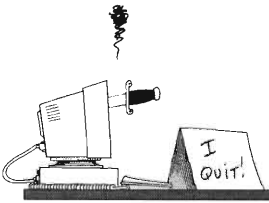
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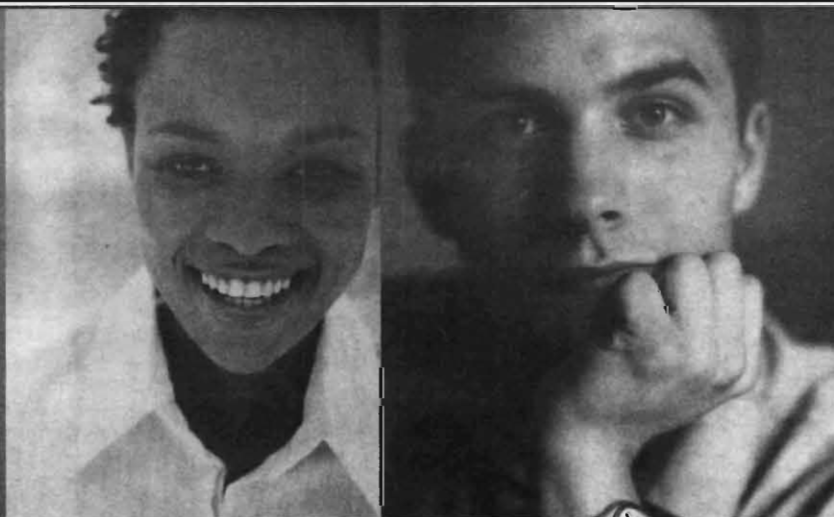
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Shower Ban Doesn't Keep Everyone Dry

Some Dorms Quieter than in Past Years

Showering, from Page 1

much feedback from students arguing for both sides. Some students expressed their enjoyment of being showered, while others wrote that they did not like it.

Scattered showers on Thursday

Benedict said that he was not aware of any showering incidents occurring Thursday night.

Next House housemaster Borivoje Mikic said that no showering took place in Next House. "As far as I know, nothing happened," Mikic said.

However, students said a few showerings did take place.

A female freshmen resident of Simmons Hall, who requested anonymity, said a group of three male upperclassmen went "around Simmons, showering 20 to 25 people."

In addition, despite an e-mail sent out to Baker which stated that showering was prohibited and violators would be punished, some upperclassmen circulated the dormitory showering freshmen, said Baker resident Tara C. Chang '08.

However, the freshmen were not helpless victims. "The freshmen were armed with condom water balloons, massive water guns, and big umbrellas," Chang said. The students started on the sixth floor of the dorm and made their way down to

the first floor, she said.

Security eventually broke up the water fight, said Bonnie K. Shum '08. "When security came and asked what was going on, everyone dispersed," Shum said. She estimates that there were about 20 freshmen of both genders and 15 male upperclassmen involved.

"They were showering all in fun though, it was a good break from studying for most people," Chang said. "They also didn't shower people if they strictly asked not to be showered."

ZBT offers asylum

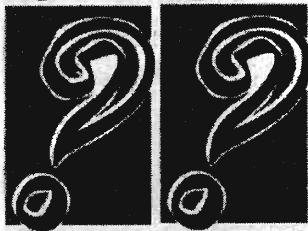
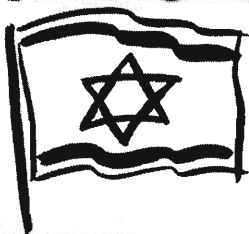
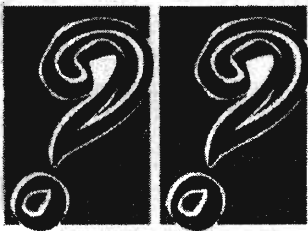
Contrary to previous general practice, at least one fraternity did not shower the freshmen visiting that night.

Zeta Beta Tau sent an e-mail that said, "Don't want to get showered? Come to ZBT and get your 8.01 questions taken care of."

Victoria M. Knight '08, who attended the help session, said in an e-mail that ZBT was true to its word and nobody was showered.

"The only showering that happened was the pouring rain around 12:30 when I tried to leave," wrote Knight. She received help with finishing her 8.012 problem set at ZBT.

"A bunch of freshmen came," said ZBT president Adam M. Packer by email. "We didn't shower them, or anyone, for the 8.01 test."



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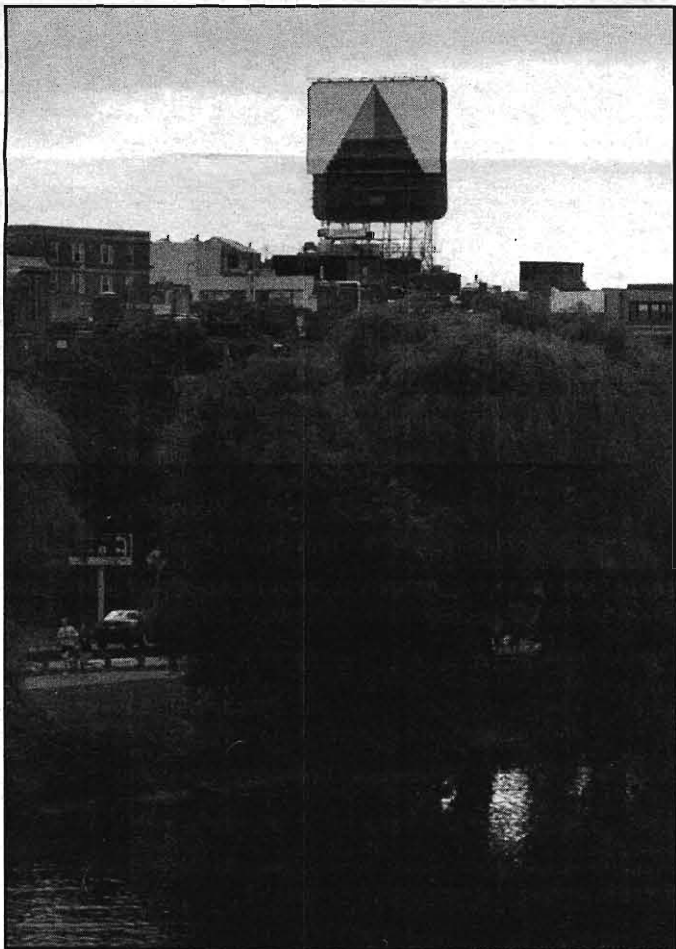
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JOHN CLOUTIER—THE TECH

Repairs have begun on Boston's iconic Citgo sign in Kenmore Square, near Fenway Park. The north face of the sign has been almost completely removed, while the south face still greets Sox fans from dusk to midnight.

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Matthew Tate, Director

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Web Site Offers Guide for Parents

Admissions, from Page 1

oughly," she said. Berns plans to apply to MIT early action.

Alice Wu, a sophomore from Temple City High School in California said, "I really like [the Web site] because everything is really neat and accessible and definitely makes browsing" very easy.

Jones noted that one especially unique aspect of the new Web site is a section designed specifically for parents. She said that no other school has anything similar to this.

The section guides parents through the admissions process and provides advice on how to help their children through this potentially stressful process.

The CCRR Grants Program funds events and activities that bring together racial, ethnic, and cultural groups to provide forums for addressing problems and concerns associated with race relations, to celebrate different cultures, and to increase awareness of the diversity that is MIT.

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Next Grant Application Deadline

1 November 2004

committee on campus race relations

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The remains of a bike, covered entirely in moss, sit chained to the bike rack outside of Walker Memorial.

OMARI STEPHENS

Two Freshmen Help Chase Down Burglar

Robbery, from Page 1

At first, she said she was “scared out of my mind,” but became very angry when the man continued to move her belongings into her backpack. She shut the door to prevent him from escaping, and “just started screaming at him.”

Srivastava said that she then realized that it may not have been a good idea to trap the thief with her in the room, but when the thief tried to escape she attempted to prevent him from leaving the room, ripping his shirt in the process.

She said she then chased him through Baker, screaming at him the entire time.

Pinkerton said that she and Iaconis had been doing homework in their room when they heard some “pretty desperate screaming.”

They looked to see what was happening and saw “a guy and Gita chasing him.”

As an afterthought, Pinkerton said that she realized what she had done could have been dangerous, but at the time she “didn’t really think about that.”

Pinkerton is a cross-country runner, and Iaconis is a pole-vaulter.

Srivastava’s roommate, Elizabeth S. Rosenblatt ’07 said that MIT Police had borrowed her printer to check for fingerprints, but “they were too smudged for analysis.” It had been evident that the thief had touched the printer because it had been moved.

Srivastava said she would go today to the police to help create a composite sketch of the suspect.

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from page 7

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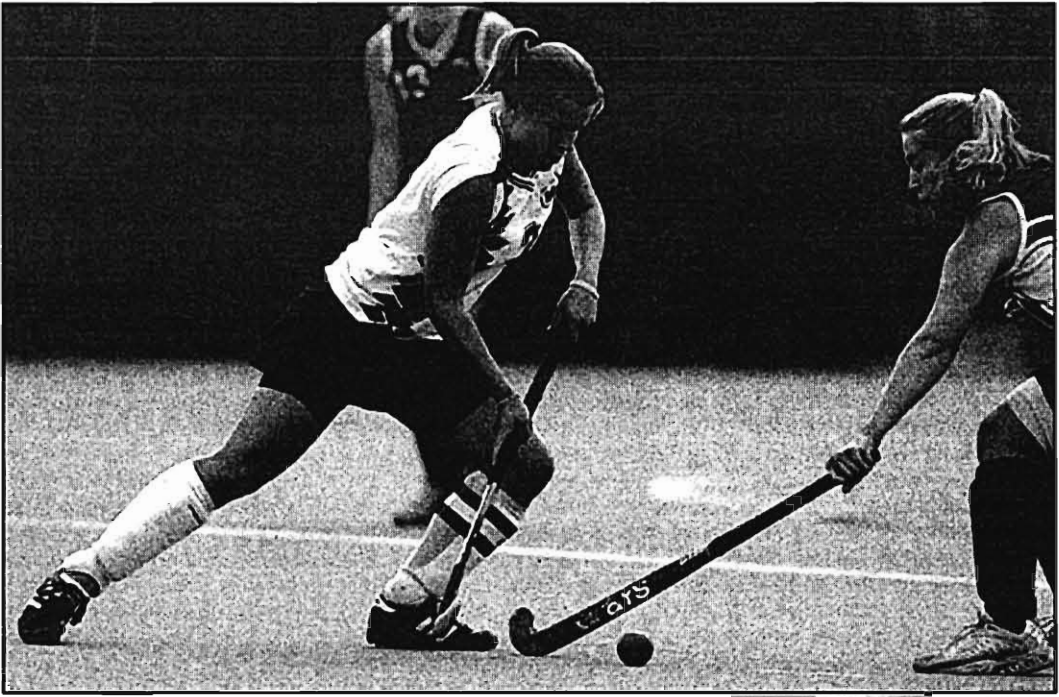
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Deanna M. Lentz '06, left, fights for control of the ball during MIT 5-4 overtime loss to Clark University on Saturday.

Baseball Returns to Washington

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

Congratulations Washington, baseball is yours again. After 33 years of migrations to Baltimore, the city will have a Major League Baseball team all to itself once again.

There were many other locations that wanted the MLB team currently known as the Montreal Expos, including Northern Virginia, Las Vegas Norfolk and Monterrey, but our nation's capitol won the bid. The city is at or above the average in most of the market statistics compared with the other baseball teams. The area's population is 13th and the median income is 8th amongst all the 27 current baseball markets.

The move did not come easy; it wasn't as though Peter Angelos, the Baltimore Orioles owner, simply caved in. In fact, there were suggestions for the Orioles to move to the National League because of the supposed "better rivals" in the national league. It would allow the Orioles to play more big market teams with a better chance of making the postseason. Eventually, though, the league decided the move wasn't worth it.

Therefore, Major League Baseball

Twins May Be '04 Marlins, Just Need World Series Win

Twins, from Page 20

in the American League with 44.

However, if a starter does leave early, the bullpen can hold up with pitchers like J.C. Romero, Juan Rincon and Jesse Crain.

In fact, just sending Santana would be enough for a five game series. Consider: he has the lowest ERA of all American League pitchers at 2.61. The next closest pitcher is Curt Schilling in a distant second of an ERA of 3.26. Santana also leads AL pitchers with 265 strikeouts, 38 ahead of Pedro Martinez. (Man, the Red Sox love finishing second in everything.) Santana will win both of his starts, meaning that Radke and Silva need to just win one of theirs.

With catcher Henry Blanco calling the game and holding runners on, the pitchers will have lots of confidence to just throw their best stuff. Also, with great defense behind those terrific starters, the

Brown's Rally Too Little to Win

Water Polo, from Page 20

ed in a goal, leaving the Engineers up by three. The Bears attempted to rally in the last period with a goal by Brown's Paul D'Avino, a sustained attack on goal, and a breakaway by Brown's Luke Samson, but it all

found another way to compensate Angelos. If the Orioles do not make a set minimal revenue, the MLB will pay Angelos out of its own pocket. In addition, if Angelos wanted to sell the team and nobody bid a certain minimal value, MLB would once again pay for difference between that minimal value and what the highest bidder is willing to pay. They are currently hashing out how much that minimal value is and how long this plan will go in effect for.

Soon, we will see if bringing more baseball to an area which already has one team will hurt attendance of both. Angelos has voiced this opinion throughout Washington's bid for the team. True, Baltimore is not doing too badly in terms of ticket sales, but they are not among the top ten leaders in terms of attendance. In addition, having a team just an hour's drive away will hurt their market tremendously.

The Orioles are currently 12th in average game attendance, right behind the Red Sox, but the Orioles only fill up 70 percent of their stadium. With a clear division between the Orioles and the DC team, that 70 percent could drop even lower and the average attendance might become one of the lowest in the league.

The other problem is that the Sen-

ators will also need to draw a large crowd, ideally from a new market. We know that the DC team will definitely draw a larger crowd than the current Expos. Montreal home games on average drew 9,077 this season, which is dead last in major league baseball attendance. In fact, they have been dead last in that category for quite a while: in 2003 they averaged 12,662, in 2002 they averaged 10,025 and in 2001 the average was a pitiful 7,935 attendants per game.

With the games being played in RFK Stadium for the next three years and the new stadium being built just 12 blocks south of the Capitol, D.C. baseball will be easily accessible via public transportation, something that the Orioles clearly did not provide for D.C. and metro area.

The question is: will the transition from Montreal to D.C. bring more people to the new team than it will take from the Orioles fans?

Baseball in D.C. will be profitable to baseball in more than just the monetary sense. It will bring legitimacy back to one of their teams, which the Expos severely lack. With the revenue that can be generated from the nation's capitol, the team can be an actual contender for the NL East, not just a spectator. Besides, it would be cool to have a stadium right next to the Anacostia River. It could be like the McCovey's Cove of the East.

If this move works, at least Bud Selig will have made one good decision in his time as commissioner.

Team Depth Needed For X-Country Wins

By Ben Schmeckpeper
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Men's Cross Country team ran to a third place finish at this past weekend's NCAA Division III PreNationals meet.

The meet, hosted by University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire was the team's first opportunity to compete on a national stage against quality competition. The team was eager to size themselves up against top teams in the nation, including second ranked UW-La Crosse. Despite the cold, rainy weather the nine harriers who made the trip to the Midwest confidently waited for the gun.

Ben A. Schmeckpeper '05, racing for only the second time this season, worked his way to among the leaders after the first 1000m, with teammates John A. Brewer '05 and Eric A. Khatchadourian '06 close behind. After the first mile mark Dan Winder, the eventual winner from Loras College, took the lead and built a gap that could not be erased. Schmeckpeper was left to fight with a runner from Emory and a runner from Bethel for second place. Schmeckpeper would wind up with a third place finish and a final time of 25:49.

Brewer and Khatchadourian began picking their way through the field and Khatchadourian made a strong move after the 3 mile mark, which moved the tandem into excellent position. Brewer was able to stick with Khatchadourian until just 1000m remained in the race before pulling away to a 13th place finish.

Khatchadourian finished just 7 seconds behind in 18th place.

Trailing that duo, Carlos A. Renjifo G was hanging tough and trying to get Kevin F. Brulois '07 to move up with him. Renjifo eventually took off alone and moved up through the field over the final miles to finish 26th overall. Fivos G. Constantinou '06, also running in just his second race of the season, ran well over the final two miles, eventually overtaking Brulois to finish as MIT's fifth man in 45th place.

Following up the top six runners was Chris Wong '08, running the best race of his short MIT career and barely outrunning fellow freshman Chris M. Bruce '08. Closing out MIT's day was Spencer C. Dudley '07 finishing the five mile course in 27:34 after a long week of academic work and not much sleep.

MIT needed a higher finish from their fifth man to have a chance at winning the meet, but finished third out of the 23 team field, just one point behind second place UW-La Crosse. This being the first race this season with the top nine MIT runners competing at the same time, this weekend's results confirmed what the team had suspected all along: this team could be among the top in the nation if a strong fifth place runner emerges.

The MIT cross country team returns to racing in New England with the All New England championship on Friday, Oct. 8, a chance for the entire team to run against Division I, II and III competition, with the varsity team angling for a top ten finish.

Twins and Yankees Still Play on Different Levels

Yankees, from Page 20

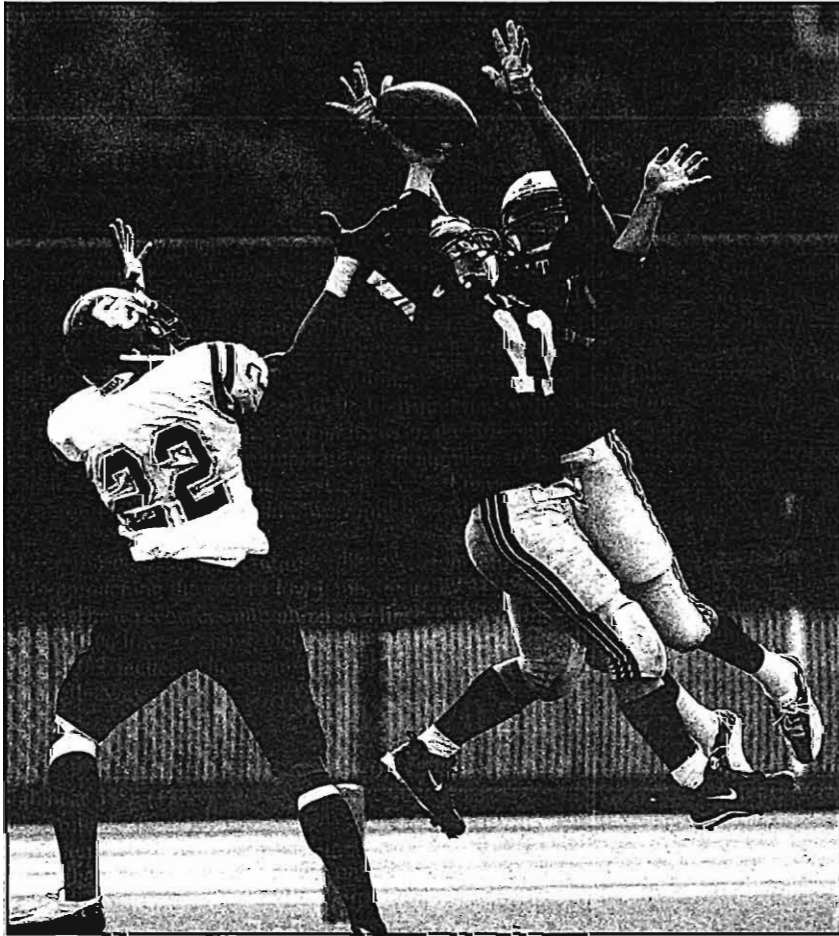
advantage against the Twins?

And it's not as if this Yankees team is made of a bunch of slouches, either. True, everyone has heard of the Yankees' problems with starting pitching, but it looks like their play-off pitching will be just fine: Mike Mussina pitched beautifully his last game out, and Orlando Hernandez has been great for the entire second half of the season. Add to that the most powerful bullpen in the majors, and the Twins will have to hit plenty to get past these Yankees.

And that's finally where the Yan-

kees have their greatest advantage: hitting. While the Yankees pitchers rate behind the Twins' staff by only a few spots, the Twins' batting statistics are 10th in the AL, while the Yankees are second. That offensive power, combined with homefield advantage and the postseason jitters that the young Twins team will be feeling and the veteran Yankees will not, will win the Yankees this series.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. The Yankees may be down, the Twins may be up, but they are still the Yankees and the Twins, and the outcome is still the same.



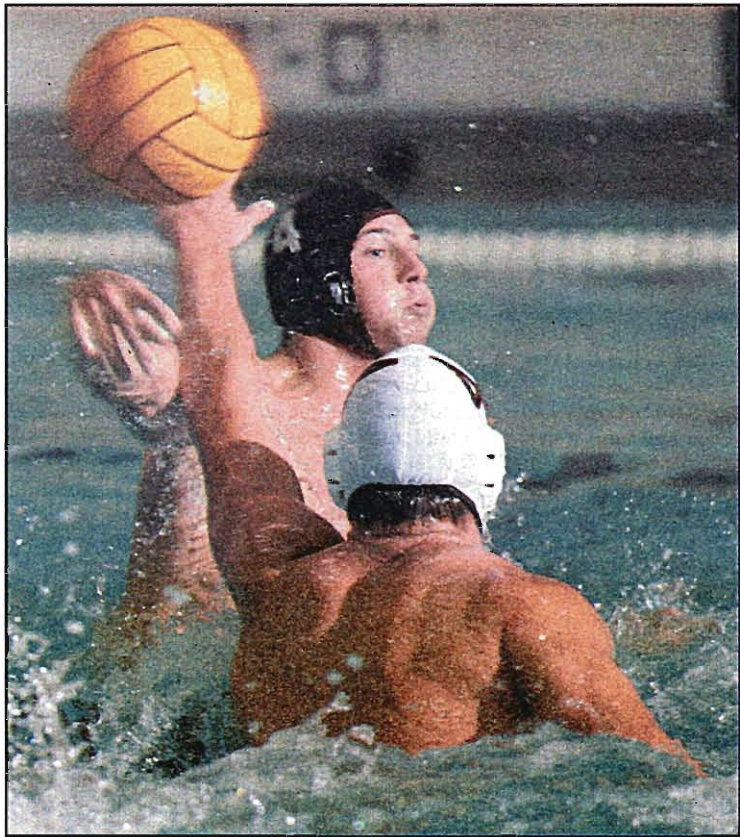
Defensive backs Richard H. Park '05 (#11, center), and David A. Blau '06 (right), break up a pass intended for Curry College's Emmanuel Parent during MIT's 32-0 loss on Saturday. The loss brought the team to 2-2 for the season.

SPORTS

Men's Water Polo Beats Brown

By Caitlin Murray
STAFF WRITER

The MIT men's water polo team gave the animated crowd on the sidelines (complete with a snare drum) something to cheer about as they improved their record to 10-7 overall on Saturday with a 5-4 win over Brown University.



David D. Lohrey '05, back, shoots during a water polo match against Brown University on Saturday at the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center Pool. MIT defeated Brown, 5-4, and will host Harvard this Wednesday.

The game started off slowly, with neither team clearly on top. Both goalkeepers, Daniel R. Malconian '07 of MIT and Jay Fantone of Brown made key saves during the first period.

The first goal was scored by MIT two minutes before the end of the first period. Fantone blocked an attack by Dan R. Jacobs '05, got control of the ball, and passed it up

to his teammate, only to have John H. Rogers '06 lunge in for a beautiful steal, pass it up the pool to Kevin C. Amendt '07 and from there back to Jacobs, who threw a goal into the corner of the net.

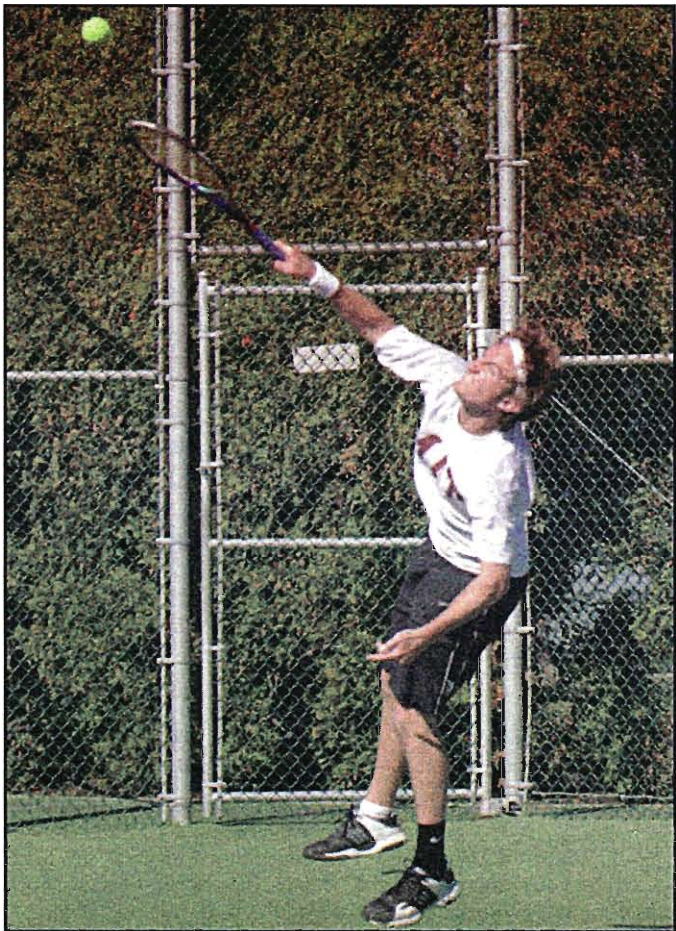
In the first minute of the second period, MIT got possession on a penalty on Brown, only to have the ball stolen within seconds. Brown's Thomas Payton broke away from the pack and beat the rest of the players to Engineer territory. After a face off with Malconian, Payton launched a powerful shot into the net, scoring Brown's first point of the game.

Each team scored twice more in the remainder of the second period, the first a light lob over the goalie's head into the net by MIT's Bruce J. DiBello '05, and the second on another breakaway by Brown, to tie it up 2-2 by the end of the first half. Brown had the chance to take the lead early in the second half, when MIT was given a yellow card and Brown's Andy Wiener took a penalty shot, but the ball ricocheted harmlessly off the crossbar, leaving the game still tied.

MIT capitalized on Brown's mistake quickly, taking the lead on what turned into the most impressive play of the game. David D. Lohrey '05 passed the ball to Rogers, and Rogers, covered tightly by a Brown defender and facing away from the Brown net, whipped the ball around his back, scored in the opposite side of the goal, and gave the Engineers a 3-2 lead.


Jacobs scored two more goals in the third period, one on a quick assist by Lohrey and one on a powerful attack by MIT that ultimately result-

Water Polo, Page 19




Evan W. Tindell '06, first seed for MIT Men's Tennis singles, serves to Nate Edmunds of Middlebury College in the final match of the New England Regional Championships, held at MIT last weekend. Tindell lost to Edmunds in three games.


UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

**Tuesday, October 5**

Varsity Women's Soccer vs. Coast Guard, Steinbrenner Stadium, 4 p.m.
Varsity Field Hockey vs. Regis College, Jack Barry Field, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 6**

Varsity Men's Soccer vs. Brandeis University, Steinbrenner Stadium, 3:30 p.m.
Varsity Women's Volleyball vs. Clark University, Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, October 7**

Varsity Men's Water Polo vs. Harvard University, Zesiger Center Pool, 7 p.m.

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Yankees Versus Twins: The Series Winner is?

Two Tech Columnists Argue For and Against

By Brian Chase
SPORTS COLUMNIST

In honor of the baseball playoffs, Yong-yi Zhu and I are writing head to head articles where we both take sides on one issue. This week the question is: Can the Minnesota Twins win their postseason series against the Yankees?

My answer is no. A lot of people think that this is the Twins' year, because they have the best pitcher in the American League, Johan Santana, and they have the most consistent closer, Joe Nathan. So what if their offense struggles at times? Good pitching wins championships.

There's a problem with all this optimism, though: this team is the champion of the AL Central, and so they aren't really used to the competition they'll be facing in the playoffs. Most of their stats are inflated by the fact that they play an unbalanced schedule that lets them chew up the other anemic teams in the Central Division. What happens when they go against a quality team like the Yankees?

We saw the answer to this one last week, when the Yankees swept the Twins at home. Did I mention that the Yankees have home field

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

The clear choice for the Division Series winner between the New York Yankees and the Minnesota Twins is the Twins and the reason is pitching.

Pitching in the regular season can win you a playoff spot, but pitching in the post season will win you the World Series. Just look at Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling in 2001 and Josh Beckett in 2003. (And did you notice that both of these teams beat the Yankees by silencing all their big bad bats?)

As a pitching staff, Minnesota has the lowest ERA of any team in the American League. They held opposing teams to 4.09 earned runs per nine innings. The next closest team was the Oakland A's at 4.19.

With a starting rotation of Johan Santana, Brad Radke and Carlos Silva, they send three of the best pitchers in the AL into a short series. Not only do their big three have low ERA's but they also eat up a lot of innings, meaning that Ron Gardenhire can rely on them for the majority of any game. It also means that they will keep the bullpen fresh and get to Joe Nathan to save the game, who has the third most saves